

CAMPUS BRIEFS
Construction companies have missing waste tanks

The two containers of toxic waste gathered at a UNC construction site have been in the hands of a subcontracting company since they were reported missing in January, said officials from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Mike Williford, the DENR supervisor in charge of the ongoing investigation, said Charles Johnson, a subcontractor of Southern Site & Environmental Corporation, is in possession of the 20 gallon tank.

The 5 gallon tank is at the SSE headquarters in Windale.

Tim Gabriel, president of the corporation, did not return calls Monday.

Peter Reinhardt, UNC director of environment, health and safety, said he is pleased that the toxic waste created from the renovation of the Medical Science Research Building was located.

He said the University is not involved with the current dispute between the Southern Site & Environmental Corporation and T.A. Loving Co., the main contractor for the project.

CITY BRIEFS

Granville laptop reported stolen during Spring Break

A Granville Towers South resident reported a breaking and entering incident Sunday that occurred during Spring Break.

The student reported to Chapel Hill police that an unknown suspect entered the window of the second-story room and stole a Toshiba laptop worth \$1,850, reports state.

According to the report, the room was last known to be secure on March 9, and police are still investigating the incident.

Merchandise taken from Carrboro clothing store

Merchandise totalling \$2,500 was reported stolen from a Carrboro business early Friday morning after police responded to an alarm activation, reports state.

According to reports, an unknown suspect entered Evolution Fashions, located at 304-A East Main St. by breaking the glass of the front door.

Ten vintage jerseys were stolen, according to reports.

Officers responded to the scene after the security alarm sounded, but found no suspect leads, reports state.

The incident is under further investigation by the Carrboro Police Department.

La Residence, Pita Pit report vandalism to their property

Chapel Hill police are investigating stolen property from two downtown businesses.

An employee at La Residence, located at 202 W. Rosemary St., reported Sunday evening that an unknown suspect stole the restaurant's hand-carved sign, according to police reports.

The sign, valued at \$2,200, was last known to be secure at 2:30 p.m. that day, reports state.

A yellow table valued at \$200 was reported stolen Sunday from The Pita Pit, located at 115 E. Franklin St., reports state.

According to reports, a surveillance video filmed a group of people carrying the table out of the restaurant at 2 a.m.

No arrests have been made and police are still investigating the incident, reports state.

CALENDAR

Today

10 a.m. — The Off-Campus Housing Association, a branch of Student Government, will host a housing fair in the Great Hall of the Student Union. The event will last until 2 p.m. More than 20 apartment complexes, realty groups and housing providers will be in attendance. Refreshments will be served.

Noon — The UNC College Republicans will host a rally for the Republican Party in the Student Union's multipurpose room.

U.S. Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C., also a 2004 senatorial candidate, will speak at the event, which will also allow students to meet with national and local representatives from the organization Students for Bush. If weather is sunny, the event might be moved to Polk Place.

7 p.m. — Gay McDougall, executive director of Global Rights, a human advocacy group, will present the 10th annual Sonja H. Stone Memorial Lecture. The event is free.

From staff and wire reports.

Odor, traffic worries top center talks

Debate on facility to resume in April

BY SARA LEWKOWICZ
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council met Monday to discuss and hear concerns about a Town Operations Center on Millhouse Road, a capital project that, if approved, will be the largest in the town government's history.

Citizens and Town Council

members alike voiced numerous concerns about the facility — estimated to cost \$41.6 million — including odor, traffic and light and sound pollution.

Council member Jim Ward voiced concerns about the limited amount of space and how this would be affected by the buildup of unclaimed vehicles, a problem that

planners said could be solved by selling off vehicles annually.

The issue of how the lighting in the facility would affect surrounding neighborhoods also was discussed.

Ken Redfoot, an architect on the project, said the facility would try as best it could to "find a balance between security needs and being a good neighbor" by limiting the amount of light spilling onto others' properties.

Blair Pollock, county solid waste

planner, addressed a number of concerns about the methane gas venting from the landfills on Eubanks Road and how the smell would affect the center.

Nearby residents recently have voiced complaints about odors.

Linda Carver, who lives near the proposed site, vented her frustration at the smell emanating from the landfill.

"What do you do about the burdens you put on a few for the good

of many," she said.

The installation of a fence between the proposed development parcel and the 10.3-acre residential parcel was another issue raised at the meeting.

Council members debated the size of the fence, whether it would impinge on Chapel Hill's Resource Conservation District and affect significant stands of trees in the

SEE HEARING, PAGE 7



University police officer Davoren Carr shows off the department's new German shepherd, Atos, in McCorkle Place on Monday. University police plan to use the canine to sniff out explosives at events such as football and basketball games.

K-9 TO ASSIST DPS WITH BIG EVENTS

BY MEGAN SEROW
STAFF WRITER

University police has a new officer.

He has two big black eyes, a wet nose, a friendly wagging tail and understands commands in Czech.

Atos, a German shepherd trained in explosives detection and tracking, will work during all large-scale events such as football and basketball games and presentations by big-name guest speakers.

Safety during large events has become a greater concern since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and officials from the UNC Department of Public Safety said Atos will help maintain security.

"Since (Sept. 11), people are concerned about going to large events and being in large crowds," University police Chief Derek Poarch said. "This is another tool to ensure that facilities are as safe as possible."

Atos, who will be 2 years old in June, will sweep event locales before-

hand, and he will remain in a DPS vehicle during events in case the K-9 unit is needed.

A one-time stipend from the University's Budget Committee provided funding for Atos' purchase and training.

After this year, funding will come from the Department of Public Safety.

Atos' handler, officer Davoren Carr, has worked for DPS for 3 years, but this is the first time she has worked with a K-9 unit.

She said she and Atos have been learning together. Along with the adjustments any new pair of partners go through, Carr faces the additional hurdle of learning commands in a new language: Atos originally was trained in the Czech Republic.

"Tone of voice has a lot to do with it," Carr said. "He generally only responds to commands I give him."

When learning the commands, Carr said, she wrote them out phonetically and memorized them.

Carr and Atos trained with the Mid-Atlantic Canine Co. and will work toward certification through the U.S. Police Canine Association.

The pair finished training last week but have not had the chance to put their skills to use yet.

"Training is continuous," Poarch said. "Right now Atos is just getting accustomed to campus."

Along with the serious nature of the work the pair must undertake, they also will attend campus programs and residence hall events to allow students to see the dog and for students and Atos to become familiar with one another.

Carr said that the relationship has developed like any other relationship and that they have had to get used to each other.

"It's been a lot of work, but it's been fun."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Education act's rules lightened

Easing of teacher hiring criteria to help rural areas

BY KATHRYN ROEBUCK
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Department of Education is set to ease highly criticized teacher qualifications under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, a move public school officials say will benefit rural North Carolina schools.

After two years of complaints about the act's strict rules on teacher certification and a lack of federal funding, Education Secretary Rod Paige said at a press conference Thursday that he will announce new regulations later this week. "The provisions will offer even greater flexibility for assessing qualification, which I am sure will please you and your constituents."

Under the legislation, some teachers were not certified to teach even though they held four-year college degrees in the subjects in which they taught. Critics said that part of the act kept good teachers out of needy schools.

Before the act was approved, schools usually provided continuing education programs for educators without proper certification during the teachers' first two years to help them achieve full certification.

However, under the act's provisions, teachers must be fully certified before they are hired.

The change hit rural areas hard, said Bob Occena, Bertie County director of student services. "We have been really struggling to attract fully qualified teachers because we don't have the resources, and we cannot compete with other areas."

Occena said the act favors larger, more tourism-oriented areas such as Dare County that can attract fully qualified teachers.

"In Bertie County, we only have hunting and fish-

SEE ACT, PAGE 7

Health board OKs Roper

New health system leader sets goals for school, budget

BY BRIAN HUDSON
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Dr. William Roper officially became the leader of the UNC Health Care System during Monday's meeting of the UNC Health Care board of directors.

Roper now fills the three-tiered position of chief executive officer of the UNC Health Care System, vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. He will be paid \$450,000, the highest base salary at UNC.

"I take seriously the job you've given me to do," Roper said to the board members. He said his first priority while leading the health system will be to ensure that UNC is in the list of the top ten medical schools in the country.

"By most measures we're nearly there," Roper said. "It will not be easy ... so we will be pushing ourselves aggressively in order to accomplish this."

One of the first tasks Roper will face will be to ensure that UNC Hospitals' budget shows positive earnings in the next fiscal year.

During 2003, UNC Hospitals was \$3.7 million in the red.

"I believe these are solvable problems," he said. "I believe these are solvable problems or I would not have taken this job."

Although Roper did not outline any specific plans to improve the hospitals, he discussed the creation of the chief financial officer position, which will oversee all the financial matters of UNC Hospitals.

SEE ROPER, PAGE 7

Survey sparks Mini Mart reform

Suggestions could affect Rams Head

BY TORRYE JONES
STAFF WRITER

Students now have the opportunity to voice their concerns about the South Campus Mini Mart.

In a survey created by the Student Services Committee of student government, students are asked what aspects of the Mini Mart need to be examined. The survey is a collaboration between committee members and Carolina Dining Services staff.

"The initial project started with a bunch of people saying they had bad experiences or would like to

see something new at the Mini Mart," said Mary Hauser, co-chairwoman of the committee. "So the committee was trying to give students an opportunity to get their voices heard."

The survey includes nine questions that focus on usage, customer service, organization and food quality and availability.

"A lot of the questions are geared towards the use of the Mini Mart and when people buy products," Hauser said. "We also wanted to know what different types of products students use and what they

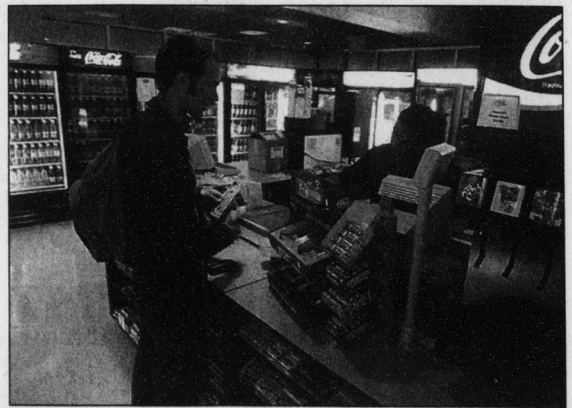
would like to see that's missing." Hauser said the committee will send CDS officials the information it received once it finalizes the survey results.

"I just hope that CDS will take it in as consideration, especially at the Rams Head," she said.

The Rams Head Center, a recreation and dining complex that is being built near Mid Campus, is set for completion in 2005. Located on the top of the Rams Head Parking Deck, it will replace Chase Hall.

The lower level of Rams Head will include a 6,500 square foot

SEE MINI MART, PAGE 7



Freshman Nate Maccosbe makes a purchase from employee Lonneta Riley at the South Campus Mini-Mart in Chase Hall on Monday.